Old Crane Armory To Have PD Display

Visitors and residents in the Carbondale area will be able to travel back in time during the Pioneer Days celebration when they visit the old Crane Armory on Eighth Avenue.

Several rooms in the building have been turned into a mini-museum in preparation for Pioneer Days and visitors will be able to see beautiful art prints, historical artifacts, hundreds of coins and paper money, and one of the most of historic objects in the country, "Napoleon's Medal," revolving majestically in a lighted showcase.

Another showcase is filled with medals and tokens, while yet another contains rare pocket watches in use during the "railroading" era. One display frame depicts the "History of U.S. Paper Money" while another houses a fine collection of Canadian coins.

Also on display is a bronze plaque from the D&H commemorating the 100th anniversary (1829-1929) of the first U.S. railroad steam locomotive. Surrounding the plaque are railroad grade pocket watches including an up-down indicator used to assure passengers of the timely movement of the train from station to station.

There is an Edison cylinder record player in working condition, a Phonola victrola, an early 1900s Fell Brewing Co. beer tray accompanied by old bottles from many of the local bottlers and pharmacies.

The currency exhibit includes a comparison display to show the individual the difference between copies, counterfeits and the original bills. U.S. error bills are highlighted by the unique "Four-Eyed" Washington one-dollar bill.

The coin exhibit is a collector's dream, and includes coins with as few a mintage as three, an 1887 $5 gold piece, a 1943-S cent in silver, a half-dollar struck on a quarter planchet, a complete set of Indian pennies, and hundreds of other coins. The exhibit will change daily in order to display additional coins and paper money. The public is invited to bring coins in for appraisal.

A variety of art prints and paintings adorn the walls, including a richly colored reverse painting on glass, a signed W. Dendy Saddler print, Turner prints, a Raymond Mesavage wood sculpture, and highlighting the art work are celebrity prints including signed works by Duke Ellington and Red Skelton.

The former Crane Armory building is located at 26-8th Avenue. Exhibit rooms will be open daily at noon. For additional information, contact Robert Evancho, 282-5320.

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Displays Planned

Several of the churches in Carbondale who participated in the Ministerium have planned to provide displays during the Pioneer Days celebration. The displays represent some of the history and contributions made by the churches to the life of Carbondale.

The displays will be on view in the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall Monday through Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. Churches which are participating in this project include Berean Baptist, First United Methodist, First Presbyterian, Trinity Episcopal and St. Rose of Lima.